

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Confirmation No. 9831

Group Art Unit: 1771

Examiner: Pierce, Jeremy R.

I CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

BY

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement pursuant to 37 CFR. § 1.56 in connection with the above-identified application, which statement is being filed:

[] Before the first Office Action on the merits or three (3) months from the filing date of this application, whichever occurs last. [37 CFR § 1.97(b)]

[] After a Final Office Action under §1.113 or Notice of Allowance under §1.311, but prior to or with payment of the Issue Fee. *[37 CFR §1.97(d)]. The fee and certification are provided, as set forth below).*

Consistent with Applicant's obligations pursuant to 37 CFR §§1.97 and 1.98, the following requirements have been met:

☐ No separate requirements are needed.

☐ No additional fee is required.

Fee Under 37 CFR § 1.97(c) or 1.97(d)

☐ The fee of \$180.00 for submission of an IDS under § 1.97(c) as set forth in § 1.17(p) accompanies this statement.

☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee of \$180.00 for submission of an IDS under § 1.97(c) as set forth in § 1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 04-1679.

Certification Under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)

The undersigned certifies:

☐ 1 that each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement; or

☐ 2 that no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the statement after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

Provision of Copies of References

☐ A copy of each of the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 is enclosed herewith and forms a part hereof.

☐ A translation of Reference _____ is enclosed herewith and forms a part hereof.

☐ A copy of the European Search Report from a corresponding or related EPO application is enclosed herewith.

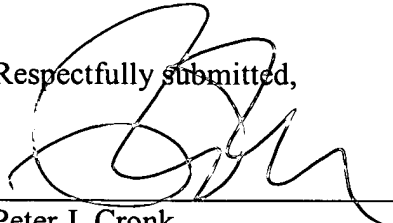
☐ A copy of the International Search Report from a corresponding or related PCT application is enclosed herewith.

Identification of Prior Application(s) In Which Listed Information Was Already Cited And For Which No Copies Are Submitted Or Need Be Submitted

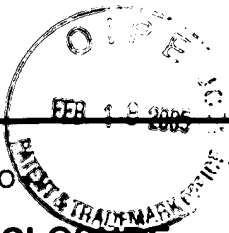
☐ This application relies, under 35 U.S.C. § 120, on the earlier filing date of prior U.S. Application No(s). , filed . The following references were submitted to, and/or cited by, the Office in the prior application(s) and therefore are not required to be provided in this application:

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 04-1679.

Date: 2-16-05

Respectfully submitted,

Peter J. Cronk
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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

ATTY. DOCKET NO.
D1815-00068APPLICATION NO.
10/615,671FIRST NAMED APPLICANT
Porter and RobertsEXAMINER
Pierce, Jeremy R.FILING DATE
July 9, 2003GROUP
1771**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIALS	Cite No.	DOCUMENT NUMBER	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	A	6,716,774	Porter et al.	04/06/2004	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS	Cite No.	Office	DOCUMENT NUMBER	COUNTRY	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T

OTHER DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.
EXAMINER SIGNATURE		DATE CONSIDERED